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## The Seattle Times

**Winner of Nine Pulitzer Prizes**

### Seattle Opera not resting on the 'Ring'

The juggernaut that is Seattle Opera's 2013 staging of Richard Wagner's "Ring" cycle has brought opera fans from around the globe. The opera company is working all the time, though, to attract the next generation of patrons.

By **Melinda Bargreen**, Special to The Seattle Times,

Originally published August 21, 2013 at 7:24 PM | Page modified August 21, 2013 at 9:40 PM

**At Seattle Opera, the "Ring" is the thing.**

Richard Wagner's 137-year-old, four-opera epic, based on the same Norse legends that inspired J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, has been a centerpiece of Seattle Opera's artistic mission since 1975. A long-held dream of the company's late founder, Glynn Ross, the "Ring" also brought his successor, Speight Jenkins, to Seattle — first as a lecturer on Wagner, and then as the new general director dreaming of his own take on the opera world's greatest challenge. These operas are bigger, longer, more heroic in their requirements than anything else on the stage ... and fans tend to be downright fanatical.



**Mali Stermer, 8, and her sister Celyn, 12, try out props from "Die Walküre" portion of Richard Wagner's "Ring" cycle at the Seattle Opera's Make Some Noise! open house Aug. 3. Pic. ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES**

This summer, eager opera fans have come to Seattle from all 50 states and 22 countries to hear and see the four operas, creating an economic impact described by a recent Seattle Opera study as \$39 million (in ticket sales, travel costs and related expenditures). They're flocking to what may be the last appearance of the widely touted "Green 'Ring,'" a beautiful and much-admired production that premiered in 2001 and has been performed every four years since.

What keeps audiences coming? Who are these people — and what is Seattle Opera doing to ensure there will be still more Ringheads in the future?

These questions are especially relevant now, when Seattle Opera is wrestling its way out of a \$1 million deficit that made national headlines last year (at this writing, the deficit has been reduced to \$758,000). Opera executive director Kelly Tweeddale, however, says that while the 2012-13 season's figures have not been announced, the company is ahead of previous numbers in both ticket sales and fundraising. This coming season (2013-14) will be the last in the tenure of the popular Jenkins, a fact that has "encouraged donors and ticket buyers — there is a lot of enthusiasm to celebrate Speight in his final year."

Who attends the "Ring"?

"The 'Ring' is so intense — it's the Olympics of opera for the presenters, but also for the attendees," Tweeddale says.

"The audiences tend to be a little more educated. Of the regular-season audience, 32 percent have postgraduate degrees. For the 'Ring,' it's 39 percent."

Women comprise 38 percent of the regular-season attendees; 32 percent of the "Ring." The latter audiences also skew slightly to the older side: 86 percent are older than 45, compared with 81 percent in the season. Other factors, such as income and marital status, are pretty much the same between the two audiences.

"There's a sort of stigma about the 'Ring' that you have to know a lot about it in order to enjoy it," Tweeddale observes.

"But we had visitors from Beijing's National Center for the Performing Arts who did not speak a great deal of English or German, and who had no prior experience of the 'Ring.' The 'Ring' was an absolutely transformational experience for them."

Because "Ring" audiences go through four intense and lengthy experiences together in a short time span, the experiences in the Wagnerian trenches tend to forge some impassioned discussions, arguments and comparisons among the attendees. Seattle Opera fosters this process in a number of ways — including a welcome event for donors who have given \$1,000-plus, where they get to know each other socially before they ever get to their seats in McCaw Hall.

Seattle Opera, administrators say, also has created the largest "young people at the opera" group of its kind in the country: the Bravo! Club, for opera fans younger than 40. The membership has varied from the current 515 to a prerecession high of 689; 3,695 households have participated since the club's origins in 1998. In 2012-13, ticket revenue from Bravo! Club subscribers exceeded \$230,000.

First-time "Ring" attendee and Bravo! Club president, attorney Marti McCaleb, had no expectation of becoming a Ringhead when she got passes to the dress rehearsals.

"I went to the dress out of obligation, because I thought I needed to have that experience," she said afterward.

"But I didn't expect to love the 'Ring'! Now I am a total convert, and I'm going again (to the third cycle). These are such powerful shows ... and the music is stunning. I'm really excited about the idea of attending again!"

McCaleb, who grew up in various Southern states in a military family, went to a traveling production of "Aida" in high school "and I despised it," as she remembers. It wasn't until she attended a better production of "La Bohème" that she realized opera could be highly entertaining. A friend in Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program urged her to attend when McCaleb moved to Seattle. After four days in this city, she joined the Bravo! Club, which she describes as "a comfortable and close group of singles in their 20s and 30s. I've met a lot of nice people who have become good friends. About 65 percent of the members are single, but it's not a dating service; it's a group with similar interests."

Now that McCaleb realizes "the 'Ring' is more than women in pointy helmets and a dangerous, powerful ring," she has set aside a week to "nerd out and go to all the lectures and events. This is an amazing piece of our culture."

Appealing to the pre-K set

Seattle Opera does not begin its educational efforts with potential patrons in their 20s and 30s, however. Those begin in prekindergarten, with a program called "Opera Time" presenting musical storytelling, which reached 1,591 kids in

the 2012-13 season. A touring program, "Opera Goes to School," served 13,163 students, with hourlong programs of fully staged operas in schools and community centers. This year, Seattle Opera commissioned and premiered a new trilogy ("Our Earth") of short operas for young children, with music by Eric Banks, a libretto in English by Irene Keliher, and performances featuring the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra.

For middle- and high-school students and youth-music groups, there's "Experience Opera," offering passes to dress rehearsals (4,390 attendees last season), backstage tours and visits to the costume and scene shops (as well as 2,929 attendees at classroom visits). Seattle Opera also presents "opera camps," workshops and other programs for school breaks and summer holidays.

For adults, the company presents pre-opera talks, chats with the staff and post-performance Q&As with Jenkins, as well as tours and performances by singers in the Young Artists Program. (That program has fallen victim to the budgetary crisis for 2013-14; Seattle Opera is working to reinstate it.) Additionally, the company puts out a huge amount of content online, on its own [site](#) as well as on Facebook and Twitter, including musical selections, videos and historical notes.

The future looks bright, Tweeddale observes.

"The 45-plus age group has always been the heart and soul of our company," she says of audience development. "And the boomers are edging into our sweet spot. Experiences are the important thing to this age group. They have more discretionary time now, and they want experiences that are deep and meaningful. It means eco-tourism; it means aesthetic development. It means the 'Ring.'"

**Melinda Bargreen also reviews concerts for 98.1 Classical KING FM. She can be reached at [mbargreen@aol.com](mailto:mbargreen@aol.com).**

[http://seattletimes.com/html/thearts/2021661217\\_seattleoperademographics.xml.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/thearts/2021661217_seattleoperademographics.xml.html)

## Inside Wagner's Head, Linbury Studio Theatre, review

**Rupert Christiansen found his low expectations of Simon Callow's self-penned play about Richard Wagner entirely unfounded.**

**By Rupert Christiansen, 11:24AM BST 07 Sep 2013**



**Simon Callow stars in Inside Wagner's Head**

Although I greatly admire Simon Callow's occasional journalism, I am generally irritated by his fruity and orotund actorly manner, as well as the way that he keeps popping up all over the place. So the prospect of his self-penned one-man show about that repellent but

mesmerising genius Richard Wagner didn't exactly send my heart beating faster.

But I was smartly wrong-footed. Except at moments when he quotes Wagner's writing directly (adopting pseudo-Cockney intonations to suggest the composer's unexpectedly "common" accent), Callow mercifully does not attempt to impersonate Der Meister.

Instead he provides a brisk, straightforward and impartial professorial lecture, illustrated by recorded musical extracts and bookended by reflections on the problematic nature of his subject's personality and the disconcerting

impact that his form of opera has on people. Wagner is always surprising and usually upsetting, says Callow, he gets under one's skin – and into one's bloodstream and DNA, he might have added.

The lecture takes place within a rich visual context. Dressed in a chocolate-coloured velvet suit, Callow roams a set which looks like the lumber-room of Wagner's life and mind. A backdrop projects a vast photograph of Wagner's face, immortalised in marble in Bayreuth, which intermittently melts into video. The designers Robin Don, Rick Fisher and Duncan McLean have done a good job on this.

But it is Callow who commands one's attention. Eschewing his more tiggerish mannerisms, he speaks entirely from memory, making only minimal and pardonable slips. He appears to have done rigorous research into all the major authorities and read much of Wagner's own writings for himself: he sees the man plainly and he sees him whole, without excessive veneration or excoriation.

Related Articles

Inevitably, a lot gets left out: I would have liked, for instance,

some acknowledgment that Wagner's anti-Semitism was part of a more general xenophobia (he was particularly vile about the French), and more about his relationship with his children. The comical visits to London are also glossed over, as is the business of his affairs with the English ladies Jessie Laussot and Carrie Pringle. Hans Richter, Wagner's closest musical collaborator, is unmentioned.

But the outline of the story could hardly be better compressed or presented, and despite an interval-

free duration of a hundred minutes in the most uncomfortable auditorium in London, the show can be warmly recommended to the uninitiated as a lucid introduction to the murkiest of geniuses.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/theatre/theatre-reviews/10293118/Inside-Wagners-Head-Linbury-Studio-Theatre-review.html>

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## Götterdämmerung

Uploaded on Dec 1, 2011

Im Zentrum steht die abenteuerliche, historische Skandinavienreise des fiktiven isländischen Skalden Einar Ormstunga, der ein fahrender Sänger und zugleich ein Krieger aus der Wikingerzeit ist und des fiktiven Hamburger Mönches Martin, der von seinem Bischof zur Mission der Heiden nach Norden geschickt wurde. Zu Wasser und zu Land durchqueren sie in den Jahren 997 bis 1000 nach Christus den Norden Europas.

Es ist eine schwere Zeit für die Anhänger der germanischen Götter. Von deren sagenhaftem Reich erzählt der Skalde unterwegs seinem Begleiter. Gemeinsam tauchen Einar und Martin in den bereits verblassenden Kosmos von Odin, Thor und Freja ein und erleben - ehe es zu spät ist - noch einmal hautnah in einer Mischung aus Faszination und Furcht die Religion und Mythen der Germanen.

Einar Ormstunga war vor ihrem ersten Zusammentreffen vor Krieg, Verwüstung und Hunger aus der großen Stadt York geflohen, dem Zentrum des angelsächsischen Königreiches Northumbria. Er hatte sich auf eine Schiffspassage über die Nordsee zur bedeutenden Wikingerstadt Haithabu an der Schlei begeben, um Schutz zu finden und in der dortigen Parallelwelt von Asenglauben, Christentum und Islam begonnen, an den Feuerstellen wie einst wieder als Sänger und Dichter von den alten heidnischen Göttern zu erzählen. Dabei lernt er seinen ärgsten Konkurrenten kennen, der bald zum Freund wird. Der Mönch Martin Einar braucht einen Gefährten und Dolmetscher für seine weitere Missionsreise ins Nordreich der Heiden.

Und der Skalde will von ihm das Schreiben lernen.

Im Frühjahr 998 brechen beide aus dem geschützten Haithabu auf, zunächst zu Fuß und an den alten germanischen Kultplätzen Thorsberg und Nydam vorbei. Dann kommen sie zu den sagenhaften Grabhügeln von Jelling in Mitteljütland und sehen dort den bereits mit christlicher Symbolik versehenen Runenstein von Harald Blauzahn. Von hier geht es weiter zum Wikingerfriedhof Lindholm Høje am Limfjord mit den sagenhaften Schiffsgräbern.

Anschließend reisen die Gefährten mit dem Wikingerschiff über das Skagerrak zum Ursitz der norwegischen Könige, ins sagenhafte Avaldsnes an der Westküste des riesigen Landes.

Von Avaldsnes machen sich die Gefährten im Herbst 998 auf einen beschwerlichen und gefährlichen Fußweg durch die norwegische Fjordlandschaft ins Trøndelag an die Mündung des Flusses Nida, wo das heutige Trondheim liegt. Dort verliebt sich Einar in die wunderschöne Seherin Ragnhild. Sie ist die Tochter des heidnischen Håkon Jarl, dem politischen und religiösen Widersacher des getauften Wikingerkönigs Olav Trygvason, der ganz Norwegen mit Feuer und Schwert zum Christentum und unter seine Macht zwingen will.

Im Sommer 999 werden die Gefährten von den siegreichen Angriffen Olav Trygvasons auf das westnorwegischen Reich der heidnischen Jarle überrascht und mit isländischen Siedlern und Händlern in Geiselhaft genommen. Sie sollen Olavs Forderung nach Island überbringen, dass auch diese abgeschiedene und lebensfeindliche Welt

mitten im Atlantik seine Herrschaft anerkennt und sich zu Christus bekehrt. Nun begeben sich Skalde und Mönch auf die Schiffspassage zum geheimnisvollen Land aus Feuer und Eis. Auf Island erleben Skalde und Mönch im Jahre 1000 auf dem Althing den offiziellen Übertritt der Isländer zum Christentum. Mönch Martin verlässt Island bald darauf wieder und kehrt nach Hamburg zurück. Als alter Mann schreibt der Skalde Einar Ormstunga seine Geschichte auf und erzählt sie uns. Von ihm, dem "Zeitzeugen", erfahren wir höchst emotional von einer unerhört spannenden Welt, die sich in Chaos und Auflösung befindet, nicht nur beim Kampf um den rechten Glauben. In England herrscht am Ende des 9. Jahrhunderts ein heftiger Krieg zwischen dem angelsächsischen Königreich und dänischen Invasoren, die das so genannte Danelag unter die Herrschaft der Wikinger zurückzwingen wollen.

Nahezu zeitgleich kämpfen in Dänemark und Norwegen Wikingerkönige wie Olav Trygvason und Sven Gabelbart um die Herrschaft über Skandinavien.

Die Aura des Dämonischen und Rätselhaften, die der Glaubenswelt der "Nordmännern" heute noch immer anhaftet, wird auch vom "Erzähler" Einar genutzt, um die ungeheure Bildkraft der Göttersagen zu vermitteln.

Eine vorzügliche Kulisse und heimlicher Protagonist zugleich ist dabei die berauschend schöne und gewaltige Natur Skandinaviens, mit den Inseln und Mooren Norddeutschlands und Dänemarks, den Fjorden Norwegens und den Geysiren und Gletschern Islands. Eine über weite Teile unzählbare, wilde, unberechenbare und bedrohliche

Natur, die für die Entstehung einer Kosmologie aus Feuer und Eis geradezu prädestiniert war.

### Comments

\* [Neia Gadon 1 year ago](#)

Hurraaaaaaaa ;-)) ich danke dir, liebe Grüße

\* [BaldrOkIss 1 year ago](#)

Keine Ursache! Heil Odin!

\* [bingzaniGercel 1 year ago](#)

Sehr Interessante doku, aber ich habe eine Frage. Um 1050 waren aber in Schweden noch alles "Heiden". In Wikipedia steht, dass es energischen Widerstand bis in d 12 Jh. gab und noch 1140 Schweden überwiegend heidnisch war. War die Erinnerung an die Götter z.B. um 1200 noch wach in Dänemark oder Norwegen?

\* [BaldrOkIss 1 year ago](#)

Die Erinnerung an die alte Religion und Wertvorstellungen war in diesen Regionen zum Teil noch bis in das 18. Jahrhundert lebendig. Es fanden zu späteren Zeiten auch noch abgewandelte Runenreihen Verwendung.

\* [Zajin13 1 year ago](#)

Und ich hatte schon befürchtet das wäre wieder so ein nazional-sozialistischer schund,zum glück ist es mal was

anständiges,gefällt mir. Gruß aus Thüringen.

\* [AchimEngels 1 week ago](#)

Heil Wotan! Wir sind noch da und trauen uns auch wieder es zu sagen.

\* [Johannes Weisser 2 weeks ago](#)

es gibt keine juden in Valhalla!

\* [MultiZueri 2 weeks ago](#)

weil das Judentum die Geschichte (auch die von 1933-1945) kennt, hat es aus der Geschichte eine religion gemacht. Das heidentum ist nicht untergegangen, es wurde unter grossen bergen von lügen begraben - lebendig. Ebenso der Nationalsozialismus

\* [ArphenMaethor 2 months ago](#)

Im Moor lebendig begraben? Deutsch - versenkt. Sie werden reingeworfen und versinken. Begraben heisst Loch ausheben, reinwerfen, zubuddeln.

Anyway das waren verurteilte Kriminelle und die wurden nicht geopfert sondern hingerichtet. Heute kriegt ein verurteilter Mörder ja auch eine letzte Ölung vor der Hinrichtung und das nennt auch keiner Menschenopfer obwohl er aus christlicher Sicht ja Gott übergeben wird,...

\* [ArphenMaethor 2 months ago](#)

Odin ist NICHT der Vater aller Götter. Die Vanen sind mit Odin nicht verwandt und auch Götter. Auch nicht alle Asen

sind mit Odin verwandt etwa Loki und Skadi. Und letztlich ist Odin im ursprung ein Frostriese (bör bestla - buri) was er auch von sich selbst sagt. Er ist Herr von Asgard und Vater von ein paar Göttern aber keinesweges aller. Ausserdem fehlt mir in der Aufzählung, dass er Gott des Sieges, der Magie und des Wahnsinns ist. Ausserdem führen die Valkyüren die Toten zuerst zu freya

\* [linuxwave 3 months ago](#)

I don't like the narrator voice

\* [Floxadar 3 months ago](#)

Der Frühling in Asgard is nun gekommen würde ich sagen, zum glück, super doku

\* [linuxwave 3 months ago](#)

So Metal

\* [Max Stolz 4 months ago](#)

Sehr interessante Doku vorallem für mich da ich am Heidentum festhalte und glaube. Schade nur das Qualität des Bildes nicht so gut ist aber das ist nebensache. Danke für den Upload.

\* [Undertaker6826 5 months ago](#)

Naja mit Nazischeiß hat diese Religion ja nichts zu tun ;)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfhgmLpPofQ>

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## Germania: Die Stämme und ihre Besonderheiten

Uploaded on Jan 11, 2012

Das ist es, was ich allgemein über den Ursprung und die Eigentümlichkeit aller Germanen in Erfahrung gebracht habe. Jetzt will ich erörtern, in wie weit sich die Einrichtungen und Gebräuche der einzelnen Stämme unterscheiden, und welche Volksstämme aus Germanien nach Gallien übergesiedelt sind.

Dass die gallische Macht einst größer war (als die germanische), bezeugt der gewichtigste Gewährsmann, der verewigte Iulius Caesar; daher ist glaubhaft, dass auch Gallier (Kelten) nach Germanien hinübergingen. Denn wie wenig konnte der Strom ein Hindernis dafür sein, dass ein Volk, sobald es angewachsen war, andere Wohnsitze einnahm und beibehielt, als diese noch Gemeingut und nicht in selbständige Reiche aufgeteilt waren! So wohnten zwischen dem herkynischen Wald und den Flüssen Rhein und Main die Helvetier, weiterhin (nach Osten) die Boier, beides gallische Völkerschaften. Noch ist der Name Boihaemum vorhanden und deutet auf die alte Geschichte des Landes hin, obwohl es

nun andere Bewohner hat. Ob aber die Aravisker von den Osen aus, als einem ursprünglich germanischen Stamm, nach Pannonien oder die Osen von den Araviskern aus, nach Germanien eingewandert sind, da sie noch die selbe Sprache, die selben Einrichtungen und Sitten haben, ist ungewiss, weil bei der einstigen Gleichheit von Armut und Freiheit beide Ufer (der Donau) die selben Vorzüge und Nachteile besaßen. Die Treverer und Nervier bilden sich hinsichtlich ihrer angeblich germanischen Abkunft sogar noch etwas ein, als ob dieser Adel des Blutes sie von der Ähnlichkeit mit den schlaffen Galliern abgrenzte. Das Rheinufer selbst bewohnen unzweifelhaft germanische Völkerschaften, die Vangionen, Triboker und Nemeter. Selbst die Ubier schämen sich, obwohl sie für ihre Verdienste zu einer römischen Colonie erhoben wurden und sich lieber nach dem Namen ihrer Stifterin Agrippinenser nennen, nicht ihrer germanischen Abstammung. Sie waren vor Zeiten herübergekommen und wurden für ihre bewährte Treue unmittelbar an das Rheinufer versetzt, um abzuwehren, nicht um bewacht zu werden.

Die tapfersten aller dieser Volksstämme, die Bataver, haben vom eigentlichen Ufer nur wenig inne, wohl aber die Rheininsel: vormals waren sie ein chattischer Stamm und wanderten infolge innerer Zerwürfnisse in diese Gegend aus, wo sie ein Bestandteil des römischen Reiches werden sollten. Noch besteht ein Verhältnis der Achtung und die Auszeichnung des uralten Bündnisses: keine entwürdigende Steuer wird ihnen auferlegt, kein Staatspächter saugt sie aus; sie bleiben befreit von Lasten und Beiträgen und werden einzig zur Verwendung im Krieg gleichsam als Wehr- und Waffenrüstung für die Kämpfe aufgespart. In der gleichen Art der Abhängigkeit steht auch der Stamm der Mattiaker. Denn die Größe des römischen Volkes hat auch über den Rhein und die alten Grenzen hinaus die Achtung vor seiner Herrschergewalt ausgedehnt. So leben sie nach Wohnsitz und Grenzen auf dem eigenen Ufer, nach Denkweise und Willensrichtung auf unserer Seite, in allen Beziehungen den Batavern ähnlich, nur dass schon der Boden und das Klima ihres Heimatlandes sie noch hitziger stimmt. Nicht zu den germanischen Völkern möchte ich,



obwohl sie jenseits von Rhein und Donau ihre Wohnsitze aufgeschlagen haben, diejenigen zählen, die das Zehntland bebauen. Gerade die leichtfertigsten unter den Galliern haben, durch ihre Armut verwegen gemacht, diesen Boden bei unklaren Besitzverhältnissen eingenommen. Seitdem danach der Grenzwall gezogen und die Besatzungen weiter vorgeschoben wurden, gilt dieses Gebiet als Ausläufer unseres Reichs und als Teil unserer Provinz.

**Volltext:** <http://www.gottwein.de/Lat/tac/Germ30...http://www.gottwein.de/Lat/tac/Germ38...http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAv5ZEuNTqw>

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## Geschichte der Germanen

### 1 - Gold für Götter

Uploaded on Dec 8, 2011

Wer waren unsere Vorfahren? Auf Bärenfell liegende Barbaren? Wilde Raufbolde? Oder kulturlose, primitive Bauern? Wie vieles in der heutigen Geschichtsdarstellung sind auch diese Vorstellungen nur ein Zerrbild der Wirklichkeit.

Sie verfügten über eine ausgefeilte Baukunst und ein herausragendes handwerkliches und künstlerisches Geschick.

Bei ihnen galt -- ganz anders als im Christentum oder im aufkommenden Islam und bereits Jahrtausende vor der Erfindung der „Emanzipation“ -- die Frau als gleichberechtigte Partnerin, Weg- und Kampfgefährtin und als alleinverantwortliche „Hüterin des Hauses“. Eine Position, die das Christentum durch die Hexenverfolgung

und die Inquisition wieder zunichte gemacht hat.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7A9JUHfyf8A>

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### 2 - Der Limes bricht

Uploaded on Dec 8, 2011

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSSQGbgSAKA>

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### 3 - Der Traum vom Süden

Uploaded on Dec 9, 2011

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Geschick.

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0epazRDMaTo>

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### 4 - Der Sieg im Norden

Uploaded on Dec 9, 2011

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS1jkRW1RhQ>

## Nationalist backed by Jewish advisers fails in Moscow mayor bid

### Alexei Navalny, who was accused of raising a toast to the Holocaust, finishes behind Putin-supported Sergei Sobyenin

By AP and [JTA](#) September 9, 2013, 10:23 am

**MOSCOW — A nearly complete vote count shows the incumbent Moscow mayor has garnered 51 percent of the vote, with opposition leader Alexei Navalny finishing second.**

The Moscow Election Commission said Monday morning that Sergei Sobyenin got 51 percent of the vote and Navalny 27 percent with 99.8 percent of the vote counted. That leaves Navalny, who has energized Moscow's opposition in his grassroots campaign, 1 percent short of the run-off.

Sobyenin, who was backed by the Kremlin, had been favored to win.



**Alexei Navalny speaks to supporters in downtown Moscow. Bphoto credit: AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev.**

Navalny's campaign chief said overnight they will not recognize the official result

because of the vote-rigging they say they have witnessed. Navalny would not comment on the result until all the votes are counted.

His campaign strategy was developed by Leonid Volkov and Maksim Kats, two tech-savvy Jews who provided Navalny with outside-the-box strategies designed to offset his disadvantage against Sobyenin.

Navalny's candidacy has divided Russian Jews, who were torn between the candidate of an establishment that has been generally good for the Jews and an opposition leader with nationalist associations some find troubling who

nevertheless promised to restore democracy and good governance. A firebrand whose critics accuse him of populism, Navalny apologized for calling Georgians "rodents" in 2008. But he has defended his appearance at nationalist marches and his calls for deporting illegal migrants. Last week, several Jewish media outlets reported that Navalny had raised a toast

to the Holocaust at a reception in Moscow last year — a story that reportedly was placed by an Israeli public relations firm. Navalny categorically denied the story, as did several Jews who were in attendance. Navalny also has had legal troubles. In July, he was convicted of embezzlement, a ruling that may land him in jail for five years if he loses his appeal. Navalny is

being investigated as well in connection with two other corruption probes that he says are fabricated. Many of his supporters have been detained by police.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/nationalist-backed-by-jewish-advisers-fails-moscow-mayor-bid/>

## Tradition vs individual rights: the current debate on circumcision

Authors: [Brian D. Earp - Research Associate at University of Oxford](#) / [Robert Darby Independent medical historian](#)

### Disclosure Statement

**Brian D. Earp has written and spoken critically about infant circumcision in academic contexts. He does not stand to profit financially or otherwise from the contents of this article.**

**Robert Darby has written and published extensively on male and female circumcision from a critical perspective and has informal links with individuals and organisations that are opposed to circumcision.**

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**2 November 2012, 2.45pm AEST**



**A protest against circumcision in the United States, where the debate about circumcision is still raging. sigmaration/Flickr**

Non-therapeutic circumcision of male infants and boys has always been a controversial issue – and never has opinion been more polarised.

In the United States, medical authorities have just [overturned](#) 40 years of sound science-based policy by deciding that the health benefits of circumcision — while not great enough to recommend the procedure as a routine — are sufficient to allow parental choice in the matter and coverage by medical insurance plans.

This move has been [heavily criticised](#) by medical ethicists in both the United States [and abroad](#). They fault the new policy not only for downplaying the [risks and complications](#) of the procedure, but also for failing to take into account [basic principles](#) from bioethics as well as human rights.

The rest of the world has moved on. In Europe and elsewhere, [the question is no longer](#) about whether there are any good "medical" justifications for routine circumcision — the consensus is that there are not. Instead, it's about the

much thornier issue of cultural and religious rationales.

In Germany, a court [recently found](#) that non-medically-indicated circumcision constitutes bodily harm and is thus unlawful. In Australia, the Tasmania Law Reform Institute has [recommended](#) that it be legally prohibited in most cases, with limited exemptions for religious practice.

In Helsinki, an [international conference](#) heard many distinguished speakers criticise unnecessary genital surgeries of all types, whether performed for medical or cultural reasons, and whether on boys, girls or intersex children. The resultant [declaration](#) formally defended the right of all children to bodily integrity.

Given its recent history, Germany is arguably the worst place in the world to see a decision in favour of child rights that could also be interpreted as directed against Jewish religious practice. Both Jewish and Muslim organisations have responded [with outrage](#), attacking the ruling as an assault on [religious freedom](#), and hurling accusations of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

Problematically, as Lena Nyhus has [argued](#) in The Jerusalem Post, when such serious charges are raised without adequate care and discretion, they risk losing their force.

"Outrage" is not an argument. But the claim that circumcision is "non-negotiable" for Jews because it is "divinely mandated" in Genesis does carry some weight.

Against this, [a growing number of Jews](#) believe that circumcision is [inconsistent](#)

[with Jewish ethics](#) and has no place in contemporary religious practice. They point out that many things are "divinely mandated" in the Bible, but are happily "negotiated" by modern Jews — up to and including circumcision.

Biblical literalists will not find these arguments convincing, but they do not have a monopoly on the practice of Judaism.

What we are really witnessing is a [clash between traditional patriarchal values](#), emphasising group conformity, and those of secular modernity, emphasising individual autonomy.

The most honest defenders of circumcision acknowledge that it is a cruel disfigurement, permissible only because God commanded it – witness orthodox Rabbi Hershey Worch quoted in Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon's [documentary film Cut](#):

"It's painful, it's abusive. It's traumatic, and if anybody who's not in a covenant [with God] does it, I think they should be put in prison. I don't think anybody has an excuse for mutilating a child. ... Depriving them of [part of their] penis." But still it must be done, because as the Rabbi concluded, "God owns my morals."

Since [at least](#) the mid-19th century, the question for Jewish people has been the extent to which they should relinquish traditional observances and integrate into the broader society. Jewish critics of circumcision first emerged in Germany in the 1840s, igniting a debate within the religion that has flared on and off right up to the present.

In response, their conservative opponents cited both traditional

arguments (cultural and religious obligation), and the new discoveries of Anglo-American doctors that circumcision was helpful against such intractable health problems as masturbation, syphilis, epilepsy and tuberculosis.



**Arguments for circumcision on medical grounds are also used to justify religious-based reasoning.** kityojames/Flickr.

We see the same tendency today: supporters of circumcision on health grounds cite religious requirements as a reason for why it shouldn't be restricted, while those who support it for cultural reasons cite "health benefits" as a reason for why it should be expanded. Regrettably, a number of analysts in the world of philosophical bioethics have been reluctant to take a public stand against this sort of vacillation. Discussion of circumcision is inhibited by

the fear that objective analysis will incite accusations of intolerance.

Writing on the [Journal of Medical Ethics](#) blog, the philosopher Iain Brassington [recently stated](#),

"Though I [have] mentioned the decision of the German court that ritual circumcision constituted assault, I've wanted to stay clear of saying more about it [because] it seemed too potentially toxic."

Likewise, the bioethicist Dan O'Connor from Johns Hopkins University [has said](#), "When [a reporter] calls my work and ask[s] if there is a bioethicist in the house who will give the anti-circumcision viewpoint, I beg off."

Lingering in the background is an unwritten rule that says critical discussion of certain ideas is automatically out of bounds. As Douglas Adams [observed](#), "If somebody votes for a party that you don't agree with, you're free to argue about it as much as you like." But if somebody mentions something about their religious practices, "you say, 'Fine, I respect that'."

Adams' point is that this avoidance is not really "respect" at all. It is about discomfort, or fear of ruffling too many feathers, being misunderstood, or being accused of harbouring prejudice.

Respect is something else entirely. Respect assumes that while someone

may disagree with you, she will consider your points with an open mind, and judge your argument on its merits.

Respect assumes that we should be able to look at one another's most cherished practices in light of the ethical advances of recent centuries without getting into a shouting match.

It's time we took a critical look at the culturally-motivated cutting of the genitals of infant boys. And we call upon our colleagues, both religious and secular, to engage in this important dialogue. Respectfully.

[http://theconversation.com/tradition-on-vs-individual-rights-the-current-debate-on-circumcision-10199?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%205%20November%202012&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%205%20November%202012+CID\\_0a067ac95fb97e59de1e5e40b0ea6ce6&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor&utm\\_term=Tradition%20vs%20individual%20rights%20he%20current%20debate%20on%20circumcision](http://theconversation.com/tradition-on-vs-individual-rights-the-current-debate-on-circumcision-10199?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%205%20November%202012&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%205%20November%202012+CID_0a067ac95fb97e59de1e5e40b0ea6ce6&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Tradition%20vs%20individual%20rights%20he%20current%20debate%20on%20circumcision)

## 'PMO stealthily recruiting students for online advocacy'

# Government to play behind-the-scenes role in spreading pro-Israel information on social media via universities

By [Stuart Winer](#) August 13, 2013, 11:51 am

The Prime Minister's Office is working to set up a network of advocacy units in Israeli universities, operated by students who will receive scholarships for their efforts totaling nearly NIS 3 million (\$845,000).

The outgoing deputy director of the Prime Minister's Office, Danny Seaman, sought to gain a waiver from issuing a public tender for the advocacy project, the Haaretz daily [reported](#) on Tuesday.

"The whole idea of the system is based on student actions," Seaman wrote in a letter to the government tenders committee last week. The project requires the state's role to be under the radar, making it appear as if the students are working independently under the auspices of the students' union, he added.

The plan aims to harness 550 bilingual students drawn from the student pool at

the country's seven universities, who will target their efforts abroad.

In each university there will be a three-tier hierarchy led by a senior coordinator, who will receive a full scholarship paid for by the government to oversee three other coordinators. The second-tier coordinators will each be responsible for one of three specific areas of operation in language, graphics and research. The coordinators will also receive scholarships, albeit smaller ones than the senior coordinator, and will be in charge of the mass of students recruited into the program, each of who will also receive a "minimum stipend." In total the project is expected to have a NIS 2.78 million (\$783,00) annual budget.

According to the report, the student union will be responsible for advertising openings for the project and for

reviewing and recruiting the candidates. The union will also operate computer rooms for the project.

Although the advocacy units will be under the auspices of the student unions, they will take their orders from the Prime Minister's Office advocacy apparatus.

"In light of the success in the battle for awareness during the Pillar of Defense Operation [the Israeli military operation against the Gaza Strip in November of last year] and the experience gained in activating a large number of situation rooms on university campuses and work with students in general, it was decided to establish a permanent structure of activity on the Internet through the students at academic institutions in the country," Seaman wrote. "The students are a structured population that is constantly active and present in the



Internet arena, is well-practiced in the field that lives and speaks the language of the medium."

Israel's now defunct Ministry of Public Diplomacy is currently being absorbed into the National Advocacy Department at the Prime Minister's Office, where Seaman will head the Internet Media Unit.

"The advocacy campaign puts a focus on activities within social media," the PMO said in a statement to Haaretz. "As part of that effort, a pro-Israel advocacy infrastructure is currently being set up based on students on Israeli campuses, that will assist in the promotion and spread of content in social media, primarily to international communities."

The Israeli academic year is scheduled to start in October.

"Israel is facing a prolonged and extreme campaign of de-legitimization against it on the social networks," explained a spokeswoman for the National Union of Israeli students, Hagar Yisraeli. "The student population is a talented population educated, with a range of independent views, that speaks different languages, and can therefore help in standing up to such a campaign." Yisraeli stressed that while the student union was willing to help out and supported students playing a role in the project, it will not have any specific political affiliations.

"The members of the students' union hold a range of views from all points of the Israeli political spectrum and it intends to stay that way," she said.

The PMO office further said that the advocacy units will focus on diplomacy/security issues and the struggle against anti-Semitism and BDS, while also stressing Israel's democratic values.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/pmo-stealthily-recruiting-students-for-online-advocacy/>

## Karen Selick: Just Another Hate-mongering Germanophobe Jew

By Arthur Topham, August 13, 2013



***"This dynamic volume outlines a comprehensive plan for the extinction of the German nation and the total eradication from the earth, of all her people. Also contained herein is a map illustrating the possible territorial dissection of Germany and the apportionment of her lands."***

***~Theodore N. Kaufmann, Germany Must Perish!***

How tedious, onerous, and evil it all is having to observe Jews like Karen Selick posing as loyal Canadians and lying their face off about Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist Party of Germany in Jewry's incessant and brazen bid to exploit to the max the cumulative hatred they've spent the past eighty years spreading throughout the world.

Selick and her ilk of pseudo-Left 'Canadian' Jews and their ceaseless, vituperative hate-fest against the German people as a whole knows no bounds. Glutted beyond excess with all their depraved Talmudic teachings, brains drenched beyond the point of saturation with vile, satanic enmity toward the German nation, constantly dripping lie upon lie, they're more than willing to resort to every devious method and venue imaginable in order to perpetuate their venomous bile toward Germany, the German people as a whole and Adolf Hitler's former government.

One such venue being used to mask their execrable intentions appears to be the Canadian Constitution Foundation (CCF) whose motto reads: Protecting

the Constitutional Freedoms of Canadians Through Education, Communication & Litigation. Obviously the CCF's covert mission, in so far as "educating" Canadians, also includes the ongoing denigration of the German nation through ceaseless vituperations such as those found in the writings of Karen Selick.



**Karen Selick Jewish hate-monger & Germanophobe**

Of course it's all pure Zionist bullshit, subterfuge and window dressing, designed to hide the main purpose of pro-Zionist organizations like the CCF, that being the perpetuation of their two

greatest LIES of the 20 Century: (1) the Mythical 6 Million Holocaust of Jews by the "Nazis" and (2) the nonstop, psychopathically-driven, mind-control propaganda designed to brainwash generations of people into believing that Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist Party of Germany (coined "Nazis" by the Jew media during WWII), and, by extension, the German nation as a whole, are the greatest cumulative evil ever to have existed upon this planet.

As a patriotic Canadian nationalist (*not* of German descent) what's so exasperating for me is to witness dual-citizen Canadian/Israeli Jews like Selick twisting, then connecting, every injustice ever to have occurred, with the "Nazis" in their eternally cursed attempt to buttress their own inevitable failure to keep the masses of goyim (non-Jew cattle or Gentiles) fixated on Hitler and WWII rather than focussing on the real criminals (both of yesterday and today), those being the terrorist, gangster Rothschild Zionist Jew cartel, the very same entity responsible for fomented WW I and WWII in order to establish their "Jews Only" spiritual "Homeland" in



the heart of Arab/Muslim territory and all the subsequent horror and terrorism and genocide of the Palestinian people. Typical of this specious Zionist Jew propaganda are Selick's slanderous, libellous, ignorant remarks inserted throughout her recent article posted on the Canadian Constitution Foundation website titled, "[You Don't Fight Nazis by Becoming a Nazi Yourself.](#)" Here are some of her maliciously maligning deceptions contained in the German hate propaganda piece:

*"One of the crimes that the Nazis committed against European Jews in the 1930s and '40s was to legalize, or at least facilitate, the theft of Jewish property, merely because it was owned by people whom the Nazis despised for their religious beliefs."*

*"Wikipedia describes the National Alliance as a "white nationalist, anti-semitic, and white separatist political organization." In short, they are neo-Nazis. As a Jew, I have no sympathy whatsoever with the National Alliance. They sound vile and loathsome to me."*

*"The Nazis reviled the Jews and their religion, and felt that their revulsion justified them in depriving Jews of their property."*

*"Nazism was evil not merely because it was anti-semitic, but also because it did not respect private property rights. A state that does not respect private property rights is evil like the Nazi state was, even though it may not be motivated by anti-semitism."*

Contentious, convoluted statements such as these are standard Zionist Jew hate literature full of lies, distortions and misrepresentations and presented as if they were as factual as the rising sun on a clear morning when in truth they resemble more the chemtrail haze that the Rothschild Jews are now spraying over the heads of the unwary goyim around the world in order to poison, weaken and kill off both the natural environment and its useless eaters.

The truth, when distilled from the overflowing vats of Zionist disinformation and out and out lies, is that when Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist Party (NSP) came to power in 1933 via the most open and internationally monitored election in history, World Jewry immediately declared a "holy war" on the Germany nation thus making it virtually impossible for the National Socialists to maintain relations with the various and disparate groups of Jews who at that time were living in Germany.

Setting aside Selick's silly, scatterbrained sophistry and fallacious reasoning for the moment it's necessary to point out to the brainwashed bovine masses that the Jewish question in Germany when Adolf Hitler and the NS party gained power was far from simple as Selick would have readers believe. Germany at that time was populated with a large percentage of westernized Jews who had dwelt in Germany for generations and who, for the most part, felt they were first and foremost German citizens over and above their religious beliefs. In other words they had accepted assimilation as a way of life and a large percentage of them were married to Germans of Aryan blood. On top of that many German Jews had fought for Germany during WW I, along side Adolf himself and he wasn't about to now turn on them just because the Zionists outside of Germany decided to declare war on the German nation. The greatest problem for the NS government was the mass influx of eastern Ashkenazi Jews that had flocked to Germany to escape the Bolshevik Communist Soviet Union and were attempting to exit to either America, Canada or Great Britain.

Ultimately the German government of the day chose to work in cooperation with the Jewish Rabbinate and the Zionist Agency, an organization that was formed to assist in the peaceful migration of those Jews deemed by the German rabbinate to be the most closely aligned with Judaism and the Zionist ideology and thus prime candidates for filling the quotas necessary for the Rothschild scheme of establishing the Jewish homeland in Palestine. From that point well into the beginning years of the war the Zionist Jews and their organizations worked in tandem with the German government in order to move as many Zionist Jews out of Germany as possible. If that peaceful migration of Jews was halted it certainly wasn't the fault of the National Socialist government of Germany but more to do with the British government of the day that halted the said immigration in 1939 when it declared war on Germany.

It also must be clearly pointed out that those Jews who were deemed suitable for immigration to Palestine (chosen by the Jews themselves and *not* the Hitler government) were allowed to leave the country with their possessions and their wealth contrary to the simplistic assertions contained in Selick's reckless and specious attempt to connect the government of Adolf Hitler with the

machinations of what are in fact the Zionist influenced actions of the Harper government and its Zionist supporting cast comprised of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and the Zionist hate rag the *National Post* and likely others such as B'nai Brith Canada, all the real bone fide censors existing in Canada today operating clandestinely as 5th columnist traitorous Jewish lobby groups and now, as shown in Selick's article, involved in further attempts to stop the National Alliance from receiving its legally bequeathed gift from a Canadian supporter.



Selick's attempt to equate Adolf Hitler and the German nation with all the present subterfuge emanating from the Zionist Jews here in Canada is a cogent example of how the Zionist Jew mindset operates. They distort everything out of proportion; turn the facts 180 degrees upside down in order to force events to match their long list of lies that must be publicized on a regular basis so as to prevent the stupid goy from realizing what is really going on behind the scenes. It's the Zionist way and Selick is living proof of just how clandestine and contorted and dangerous the Zionist ideology is when it comes to discerning truth from the fiction of lies that political Zionism is predicated upon.

If I might paraphrase the precise words of Selick, who, in her maligning slurs and aspersions aimed at the National Alliance, had the gall to state, "*As a Jew, I have no sympathy whatsoever with the National Alliance. They sound vile and loathsome to me*" I would unhesitatingly state that as a Gentile Christian I have absolutely no sympathy whatsoever with the Zionist Jews. They not only **sound** vile and loathsome to me but their actions over the past

century and longer have convinced me that they **ARE** vile and loathsome and that they pose the greatest danger to world peace and harmony that this world has ever experienced.

**PLEASE NOTE: Now that Section 13 is dead that still leaves me having to carry on with my own Section 319(2) criminal charge laid against me by Richard Warman and Harry Abrams. With the untimely death of my former lawyer Douglas Christie I am all the more in need of financial support in order to carry on the fight to retain my fundamental rights to publish on the Internet.**

The struggle to retain our inherent right to freedom of speech doesn't come without costs both financially and otherwise. Out of necessity, I am forced to ask for financial assistance in this

ongoing battle with the foreign Zionist lobbyist/censors who are determined to stop all freedom of expression in Canada.

Being a 'Senior Citizen' on a very limited pension and having now been denied assistance by Legal Aid services here in B.C. I'm left in the unenviable position of having to rely solely upon donations from supporters to pay my legal and related expenses.

I would ask readers to give serious consideration to helping out by either sending a donation via PayPal using either a PayPal account or a credit card or else sending a certified cheque or Money Order or cash to me, Arthur Topham, via snail mail at the following postal address. Please don't make the cheque out to "RadicalPress" as that account is no longer available to me.

**Arthur Topham**

**4633 Barkerville Highway  
Quesnel, B.C  
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To access my PayPal button please go to either the Home Page at <http://www.radicalpress.com> or my blog <http://www.quesnelcariboosentinel.com> The PayPal button is up on the right hand corner of the Home Page on either site. Feel free to click on it.

For Freedom of Speech, Justice for All,  
Sincerely,

**Arthur Topham**

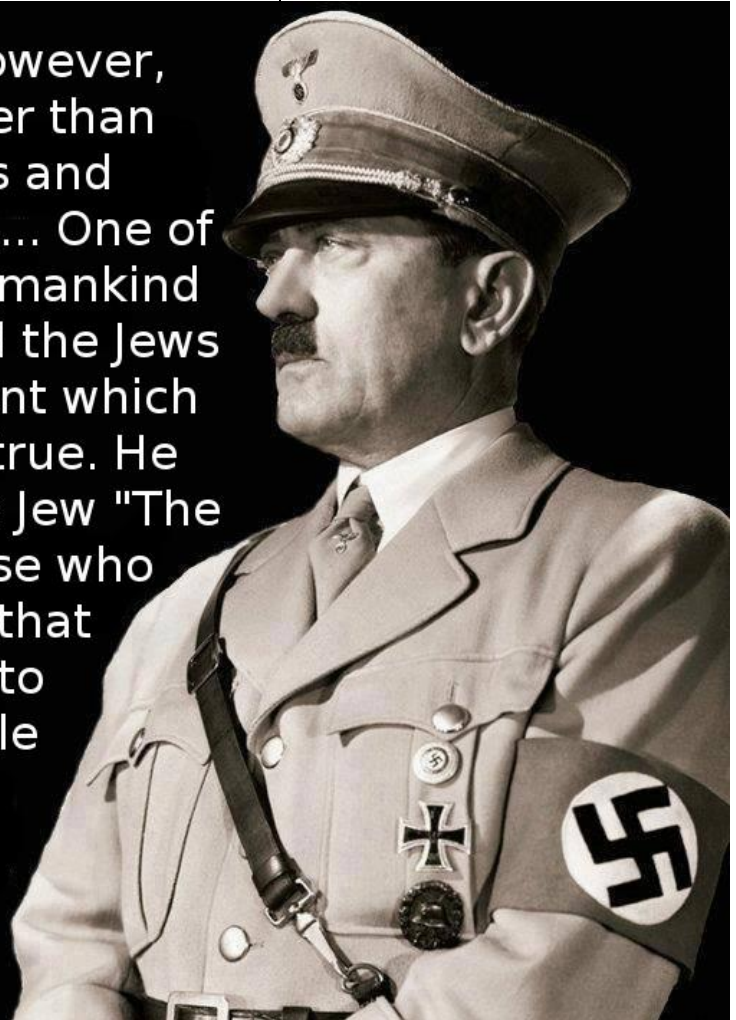
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"From time immemorial however, the Jews have known better than any others how falsehoods and calumny can be exploited.... One of the greatest thinkers that mankind has produced has branded the Jews for all time with a statement which is profoundly and exactly true. He (Schopenhauer) called the Jew "The Great Master of Lies". Those who do not realize the truth of that statement, or do not wish to believe it, will never be able to lend a hand in helping Truth to prevail."

**~ Adolf Hitler**



### **Holocaust Eyewitnesses: Is the Testimony Reliable?**

**INEVITABLY, WHEN ANYONE QUESTIONS THE GENOCIDE of European Jewry, the eyewitness testimony is raised as proof that the genocide happened. However, most of the eyewitness accounts of the holocaust story have proved to be extremely unreliable and at times even laughable. See for yourself.**

**By John Wear**

John Demjanjuk, a naturalized American citizen, was accused by eyewitnesses of being a murderous guard at Treblinka named Ivan the Terrible. Demjanjuk was deported to Israel, and an Israeli court tried and convicted him primarily based on the eyewitness testimony of five Jewish survivors of Treblinka. Demjanjuk's defense attorney eventually uncovered new evidence proving that the Soviet KGB had framed Demjanjuk, and that documents supposedly showing him to be a guard at Treblinka were Soviet forgeries. The Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the eyewitness accounts were not credible and that Demjanjuk was innocent.<sup>1</sup>

Another example of false witness testimony of the holocaust story occurred in the case of Frank Walus, who was a retired Chicago factory worker charged with killing Jews in his native Poland during the war. An accusation by Simon Wiesenthal that Walus had worked for the Gestapo prompted the U.S. government's legal action. During Walus' trial 11 Jews testified under oath that Walus had murdered Jews during the war. After a costly four-year legal battle, Walus was finally able to prove that he had spent the war years as a teenager working on German farms. An American Bar Association article published in 1981 concluded in regard to Walus' trial that ". . . in an atmosphere of hatred and loathing verging on hysteria, the government persecuted an innocent man."<sup>2</sup>

It would be impossible for me to discuss every eyewitness account of the Holocaust story. To illustrate the unreliability of eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust story, I will analyze the eyewitness accounts of probably its three most famous survivors: Elie Wiesel, Simon Wiesenthal, and Viktor Frankl.

#### **ELIE WIESEL**

Elie Wiesel, whose autobiography *Night* written in 1956 helped him win the Nobel Peace Prize, never mentions homicidal gas chambers in his book. Instead, Wiesel writes that Jews were killed en masse by being thrown alive in burning pits.<sup>3</sup> If there had actually been homicidal gas chambers at Birkenau, one would think that Wiesel would have mentioned the gas chambers in his autobiography. Also, if there had been burning pits at Birkenau, these would have shown in some of the Allied aerial photographs taken of Birkenau in 1944.

Wiesel also mentions in *Night* that he had surgery on an infected foot in January 1945. The German authorities at Birkenau gave Wiesel and other hospital patients unfit to travel the option to remain in the camp. Wiesel and his father decided to evacuate Birkenau and travel to Buchenwald with the Germans rather than be liberated by the Russian army.<sup>4</sup> If Birkenau had been a place of mass exterminations, why would Wiesel choose to travel with his supposed killers? Also, why would the German authorities at Birkenau leave behind thousands of witnesses to their genocide if a policy of genocide had actually taken place at Birkenau?

That Wiesel survived his internment at Buchenwald is, of course, the result of a miracle. Wiesel states: "In Buchenwald they sent 10,000 persons to their deaths each day. I was always in the last hundred near the gate. They stopped. Why?"<sup>5</sup> Today no credible historian believes that 10,000 Jews per day were executed at Buchenwald.

A remarkable witness himself, Wiesel assures us that he has met other remarkable witnesses. Wiesel states in one of his books that after Jews were executed at Babi Yar in Ukraine: "Eyewitnesses say that for months after the killings the ground continued to spurt geysers of blood. One was always treading on corpses."<sup>6</sup> Wiesel repeats this claim later with some embellishment: "Later, I learn from a witness that, for month after month, the ground never stopped trembling; and that, from time to time, geysers of blood spurted from it."<sup>7</sup> This story lacks all credibility.

Wiesel does not seem to know that photos taken at Babi Yar shortly after the alleged mass executions of Jews show no indication of any mass grave site or any disturbance of the foliage or ground cover.<sup>8</sup>

#### **Simon Wiesenthal**

Famed Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal also reports a trip to a National Socialist camp hospital in his book *The Murderers Among Us*. Wiesenthal wrote that he tried to commit suicide by cutting his wrists while incarcerated by the National Socialists. Instead of letting him die, the National Socialists sent him to the hospital, where they nursed him back to health.<sup>9</sup> If the National Socialists were intent on committing genocide against European Jewry, why would they make the effort to send both Wiesel and Wiesenthal to the hospital to restore their health?

#### **Viktor Frankel**

Viktor Frankl's book *Man's Search for Meaning* has been ranked by the Library of Congress as one of the 20th century's 10 most influential books in the United States. Frankl describes his experiences at Auschwitz in this book as if he had spent many months there. In reality, Frankl was in Auschwitz only for a few days in October 1944 while in transit from Theresienstadt to a sub camp of Dachau. Frankl has admitted this to the American evangelist Robert Schuller: "I was in Auschwitz only three or four days. . . . I was sent to a barrack, and we were all transported to a camp in Bavaria."<sup>10</sup>

Frankl's short time in Auschwitz is substantiated by the prisoner log from the sub camp of Dachau, Kaufering III, which listed Frankl's arrival on October 25, 1944, six days after his departure from Theresienstadt.<sup>11</sup> Thus, Frankl's descriptions of his long stay at Auschwitz in *Man's Search for Meaning* are pure fiction.

#### **PREPOSTEROUS VERBOSITY**

The unreliability of eyewitness testimony of the holocaust story has also been commented on by some historians. Jewish historian Samuel Gringauz criticized what he called the "hyperhistorical" nature of most Jewish survivor testimony. Gringauz wrote that "most of the memoirs and reports are full of preposterous verbosity, graphomantic exaggeration, dramatic effects, overestimated self-inflation, dilettante philosophizing, would-be lyricism, unchecked rumors bias, partisan attacks and apologies."<sup>12</sup>

Shmuel Krakowski, archives director of Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Center, confirmed in 1986 that more than half the testimonies of Jewish survivors on file there are unreliable. Krakowski said many survivors, wanting to be a part of history, may have let their imaginations run away from them. He stated that many of the testimonies on file at Yad Vashem were later proved to be inaccurate when locations and dates could not pass an expert historian's appraisal. Krakowski commented on the Jewish survivor testimony: "Many were never in the places where they claimed to have witnessed atrocities, while others relied on second-hand information given them by friends or passing strangers."<sup>13</sup>

Although seldom mentioned in the press, numerous eyewitnesses have reported that they did not see any evidence of genocide in the National Socialist concentration camps. One of the first to dispute reports of National

Socialist genocide was Paul Rassinier. Rassinier was a French professor of history who was arrested during the war for passive resistance activities, which included helping to smuggle Jews into neutral Switzerland. Rassinier stated that although he suffered greatly during the war in the Buchenwald and Dora concentration camps, he never saw any evidence of homicidal gas chambers nor any program to exterminate the Jews. After reading sensationalized accounts he knew were false, Rassinier felt it was his ethical duty to tell the truth about the camps and refute the false claims being made in the world's press.

Rassinier wrote extensively about his own experiences and observations in the German camps. He also began to research the entire issue of National Socialist genocide against the Jews during the war. Rassinier concluded that the death toll in the camps was far lower than alleged. He also concluded that the deaths in the camps were not caused by a German program of genocide,<sup>14</sup> but rather primarily by the poor conditions of the camps attributable to the economic collapse of Germany during a devastating war. Rassinier had nothing to gain personally from taking his unpopular position, and after suffering greatly in the German concentration camps, he then suffered intense persecution in postwar France for his courageous writings after the war.

Thies Christophersen was another witness who said the alleged genocide of Jews during the war never happened. Christophersen supervised about 300 workers, many of them Jewish, at Auschwitz from January to December 1944. On a number of occasions during this period he visited Birkenau, where allegedly hundreds of thousands of Jews were being gassed to death. In a memoir first published in Germany in 1973, *The Auschwitz Lie*, Christophersen wrote that during the time he was at Auschwitz he did not notice the slightest evidence of mass gassings. In March 1988 at the Ernst Zündel trial in Toronto, he also successfully answered numerous pointed questions by the prosecuting attorney about his experiences at Auschwitz.

After *The Auschwitz Lie* was published, Christophersen received thousands of letters and calls. He wrote in regard to these letters and calls:

Many of those who contacted me can confirm my statements, but are afraid to do so publicly. Some of those are SS men who were brutally mistreated and even tortured in Allied captivity. I also

immediately contacted those who claimed to know more about mass gassings. My experiences were precisely the same as those of French professor Paul Rassinier. I have not found any eyewitnesses. Instead, people would tell me that they knew someone who knew someone else, who talked about it.

In most cases the alleged eyewitnesses had died. Other supposed eyewitnesses would quickly begin to stammer and stutter when I asked a few precise questions. Even Simon Wiesenthal had to finally admit before a Frankfurt district court that he was actually never in Auschwitz. All of the reports I have heard about are contradictory. Everyone seemed to tell a different story about the gas chambers. They couldn't even agree about where they were supposed to have been located. This is also true of the so-called scholarly literature, which is full of contradictions. . . .<sup>15</sup>

Another eyewitness who did not see any evidence of genocide of the Jews is Dr. Wilhelm Stäglich. Dr. Stäglich, a German judge, visited Auschwitz several times during the Second World War as a German orderly officer of an Anti-aircraft Detachment. Dr. Stäglich published the following account of his visits to Auschwitz:

On none of these visits did I see gassing installations, crematoria, instruments of torture, or similar horrors. The camp gave one the impression of being well kept and very well organized. . . .

The camp reminded me of the German Labor Front camp in which I served out my six-month stretch in the Labor Service, except that Auschwitz was, of course, considerably larger. . . . None of the inmates behaved as though they were in fear of mistreatment, let alone death.

On the later point, one encounter with inmates especially sticks in my memory. As some comrades and I were standing near the camp one evening, we caught sight of a big gang of inmates returning to camp from work in the industrial plants. They were escorted by a relatively small contingent of SS-men—mostly older people—and seemed to be thoroughly undisciplined.

They talked loudly among themselves, laughing all the while. Two or three inmates dropped out of line when they spotted us, opened their flies, and made water. Although this gesture could have been interpreted as a sign of contempt for German men in uniform, the SS guards ignored it completely. Later, whenever I heard that mortal terror prevailed in the concentration camps, I

had to recall this incident. That is hardly the way people who are in constant fear of death behave.<sup>16</sup>

Another credible eyewitness is the Austrian-born Canadian Maria Van Herwaarden, who was interned at Birkenau starting in 1942. Van Herwaarden testified at the 1988 Ernst Zündel trial that she saw nothing at Birkenau that resembled mass murder. She did testify, however, that many of the inmates at Birkenau died of typhus and some inmates committed suicide.<sup>17</sup> No prosecution witnesses were called during this trial because the prosecution knew of no survivors who could withstand cross-examination by Zündel's defense attorney.

While I know that National Socialist Germany did not have a program of genocide against European Jewry, I am equally certain that the inmates in the camps suffered tremendous hardships. This point was driven home to me in 1999, when I met a Jewish lady who had spent her early childhood years in four different German camps during the war. She barely survived Bergen-Belsen, where she contracted typhoid and was very close to death when the British army took control of the camp. Her experiences in the camps had been so traumatic that she still had major psychological damage from her internment 54 years after the war was over.

However, if National Socialist Germany had conducted a program of genocide against European Jewry, she would have been executed, since as a little Jewish girl she was too young to contribute to the German work effort. She was living proof that Germany did not have a program of genocide against European Jewry.

#### ENDNOTES:

1 An excellent account of John Demjanjuk's trial is provided in Sheftel, Oram, *Defending "Ivan the Terrible,"* Washington, D.C., Regnery Publishing, Inc., 1996.

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3 Wiesel, Elie, *Night Trilogy*, New York: Hill and Wang, 2008, pp. 51-52.

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5 "Author, Teacher, Witness," *Time Magazine*, March 18, 1985, p. 79.

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10 Frankl, Viktor, "Dr. Robert Schuller Interviews Viktor Frankl: How to Find Meaning In Life," *Possibilities: The Magazine of Hope*, March/April 1991, p. 10.

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13 Amouyal, Barbara, "Doubts over Evidence of Camp Survivors," *Jerusalem Post*, Israel, Aug. 17, 1986, p. 1.

14 Rassiner, Paul, *The Holocaust Story and the Lies of Ulysses*, Costa Mesa, California: The Institute for Historical Review, 1978.

15 Christophersen, Thies, "Reflections on Auschwitz and West German Justice," *The Journal of Historical Review*, Volume Six, No. One, Spring 1985, p. 118.

16 Stäglich, Wilhelm, *Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence*, Institute for Historical Review, 1990, p. 293.

17 Kulaszka, Barbara, ed., *Did Six Million Really Die: Report of Evidence in the Canadian "False News" Trial of Ernst Zündel*, Toronto: Samisdat Publishers Ltd., 1992, pp. 253-255.

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#### **A Much More Plausible Eyewitness Account . . .**

#### **AFFIDAVIT NO. 229: SWORN STATEMENT OF FRANZ KRAUSE** **Translated by Carlos Porter**

Being aware of the criminal consequences of a false sworn statement, I, Franz Krause, born on June 16, 1904 in Gedaithen, Krs. Allenstein, East Prussia, residing at . . . make the following report, the correctness and truthfulness of which I confirm under oath.

From October 1943 to March 1945, I was the chief squad leader (sergeant

major) of headquarters company 1st division of the tank regiment of the Viking Division. In early May 1944, I was assigned to the tank regiment as leader of the support point. "Support point" means the management of material reserves, devices, clothing etc. I received the order to construct the support point in the Auschwitz concentration camp, while the division was on the troop exercise ground at Heidelager (Debica, Poland). In the Auschwitz camp, a barracks in which I could store the materials was made available to me by the administration. My stay there lasted 10 weeks, so that I used the opportunity to allow my wife and five-year-old boy to come stay with me. The dwelling made available to me by the camp administration was located in an individual dwelling house. Since I had enough time, I walked around the camp to get to know it. No restrictions were imposed upon me by the camp administration.

I remember especially well that I heard music and went over to see where it came from. In front of the local administration building stood thousands of inmates in march formation and marching along the camp road to the armaments factories located outside the camp under the direction of kapos [prisoner guards] to the sound of music. Toward evening, they returned to the camp. This was repeated every day during my stay. I have established that the inmates were well fed and their behavior was also good.

I made the same observation in the women's camp. To the song of "High on the Yellow Wagon" they marched to the local experimental agricultural installation, which was under the direction of Thies Christophersen. I remember that the women came from the adjacent camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

During my inspections, I discovered a camp with suitcases. Since I had only escaped with my naked life from the Tscherkassy encirclement, I went to camp commandant Baer to ask if he could give me a suitcase. Baer refused. In a second conversation, he explained

to me that the suitcases belonged to the prisoners and that he could not dispose of them. He reported to me upon the occasion a commission had examined the lodgings of the camp personnel a few weeks before. If anything was found which belonged to the inmates, the person was sent to the SS punishment camp at Matzkau near Danzig. Baer did not wish to risk such a punishment for the sake of a suitcase. I never forgot that statement.

During my wanderings through the Auschwitz camp, I never saw a gas chamber, nor did I perceive any stench of burnt corpses. The columns of smoke that I saw came from the surrounding armaments manufacturing plants.

If people object that thousands, or even tens of thousands, of prisoners were gassed or burnt during this period, I must reply that such proceedings could not have remained concealed from me.

At any rate, I never saw or heard anything about it. A sub-squad leader from the administration lived in our neighborhood, with whom I often conversed about everything possible. Our wives became close friends and visited each other. There was never any mention of gassing of inmates. We also visited a musical event in the camp [performed by prisoners].

On the whole, I got to know Auschwitz as a decent labor camp.

I had no contact with the inmates themselves; they were on labor service during the day, so that the camp was almost empty. I never saw anything in the way of brutality by the SS against inmates. Only once, I saw a [prison laborer] hoeing weeds in the camp, the supervising [Jewish] kapo was very aggressive and kicked several of the inmates.

This is my report of the major impressions [of Auschwitz] which have remained in my memory. F

Signed

Franz Krause

No. 11 of the roll of sworn statements for 1991, notary public Helmut Meyer, Einbeck, March 7, 1991.

FROM [WWW.CWPORTER.COM](http://WWW.CWPORTER.COM)

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### **The Economist explains**

## **Why does America have such a big prison population?**

**Aug 14th 2013, 23:50 by J.F. | ATLANTA**

"TOO many Americans go to too many prisons for far too long, and for no truly good law-enforcement reason." The

person who said that was neither a defence lawyer, nor a prisoners'-rights advocate, nor a European looking down

his nose across the Atlantic. It was instead America's top law-enforcement official, Eric Holder, the attorney

general. On Monday Mr Holder [announced several changes to federal prison policy](#), the most important of which was that federal prosecutors will no longer charge low-level, non-violent drug offenders with crimes that trigger "draconian" mandatory-minimum sentences. But how did America's prison population become so unmanageably huge?

America has around 5% of the world's population, and 25% of its prisoners. [Roughly one in every 107 American adults is behind bars](#), a rate nearly five times that of Britain, seven times that of France and 24 times that of India. Its prison population has more than tripled since 1980. The growth rate has been even faster in the federal prison system: from around 24,000—its level, more or less, from the 1940s until the early 1980s—to more than 219,000 today.

Probably the biggest driver of this growth has been ever-harsher drug penalties. In response to the crack epidemic of the 1980s, Congress and state legislatures began passing laws that meted out mandatory-minimum sentences for drug-related crimes. These were intended to help nab major traffickers, but the sentences were triggered by the possession of tiny quantities of drugs: five grams of crack, for instance, resulted in a mandatory-minimum sentence of five years. Conspiracy laws made everyone involved in a drug-running operation legally liable for all of the operation's activities: a child hired for a few dollars a day to act as a lookout at the door of a crack house was on the hook for all the drugs sold in that house and all the crimes associated with their sale. These sorts of laws kept America's prison population growing [even as its crime rate declined](#).

The tide began to turn around ten years ago when, in classic Nixon-to-China fashion, hang-'em-high Texas passed a law sending low-level, non-violent drug offenders to treatment rather than prison. The reform movement gained steam when the financial crisis hit: incarcerating people is expensive. Since 2007 [more than half of America's states have enacted some form of criminal-justice reform](#), and since 2008 the number of Americans behind bars has dipped slightly. How much of a dent Mr Holder's policy shift will make remains unclear: it applies only to federal prisons, and around 90% of incarcerated Americans are in state and local lockups. But it's a good start.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/08/economist-explains-8>

## Israel: We've been 'absolutely certain' for months Assad using nerve gas Army's top intelligence analyst, in rare interview, also says it is 'extremely unlikely' Israel could be taken by surprise as it was in the 1973 war

By Times of Israel staff and [Mitch Ginsburg](#) September 14, 2013, 10:43 pm



**Brig. Gen. Itai Brun, head of the IDF Military Intelligence research and analysis division, at a Foreign Affairs and Defense committee hearing at the Knesset in 2012 (photo credit: Noam Moskowitz/Flash90)**

Israel has been "absolutely certain" for many months — long before the alleged August 21 chemical weapons attack that prompted the current Syria crisis — that President Bashar Assad was using chemical weapons in the civil war, the Israeli army's top intelligence analyst said in an interview broadcast Saturday. Brig. Gen. Itai Brun, the senior analyst in the IDF's Military Intelligence hierarchy, said the Israeli army had an extremely effective intelligence-gathering capacity on Syria, but declined to go into specifics.

That capacity, he indicated, allowed Israel's intelligence chiefs to assert with high confidence that there was only a

'low probability' that the Assad regime would attempt to fire chemical weapons into Israel in the event of international intervention in the civil war.

In the rare interview, which coincided with the 40th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War — known in Israel as the Yom Kippur War — Brun said it was "almost impossible" that Israel could be hit by a surprise enemy attack at it was in that conflict, in which 2,500 Israeli soldiers were killed.

Awareness that Israeli army intelligence had failed to predict the Arab armies' attack on the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar, Brun said, "accompanies me every day." He said the failure by his predecessors was a function of their limited imagination and the fact that they were "welded to a conception" that Egypt was too weak to attack Israel and that Syria would not attack without Egypt.

Nowadays, the IDF carried out war games, had special teams that questioned assumptions, worked on all kinds of scenarios, and took a range of other measures designed to ensure that the country could not be surprised again, he said.

It was Brun who, in April, delivered a [bombshell lecture in which he declared](#) publicly that Assad was using nerve gas against rebel forces: "To the

best of our professional understanding, the regime has used lethal chemical weapons," he said in late April, and specified that the IDF believed the toxic element was Sarin. He noted then that it had been used on more than one occasion, including in an attack on March 19.

His assertion was initially queried, but subsequently accepted, by US and other officials. The Israeli conclusion was "based on very special work," by a team that "saw very clearly," Brun said on Saturday.

In his April address, Brun showed a photo of a child with narrowed pupils and foam coming out of his mouth. Both of these were indicative of a nerve agent, he said. He repeated those indicators in the Saturday interview, broadcast on Israel's Channel 2 news, while making plain that the IDF had other, more conclusive, sources of information.

Israeli military intelligence reportedly played a key role in providing evidence of Assad's chemical weapons use in the August 21 attack that sparked the current crisis over Syria. [On the Friday after that attack, Channel 2 reported](#) that the weapons were fired by the 155th Brigade of the 4th Armored Division of the Syrian Army, a division under the command of the Syrian

president's brother, Maher Assad. The nerve gas shells were fired from a military base in a mountain range to the west of Damascus, the TV report said. The report did not state the source of its information. But subsequently, Germany's Focus magazine reported that an IDF intelligence unit was listening in on senior Syrian officials when they discussed the chemical attack. According to the Focus report, a squad specializing in wire-tapping within the IDF's prestigious 8200 intelligence unit intercepted a conversation between high-ranking regime officials regarding the use of chemical agents at the time of the attack.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-weve-been-absolutely-certain-for-months-assad-using-nerve-gas/>

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**Israel has 80 nuclear warheads, report says**  
**Country reportedly stopped producing atomic weapons in 2004 but possesses enough fissile material for up to 190 warheads**  
**By Times of Israel staff September 15, 2013, 1:09 am**

Israel possesses a stockpile of 80 nuclear warheads, all of which were produced by 2004, when Israel froze all production, according to a report published over the weekend. [The report](#), in the September/October issue of the

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, cited US Defense Intelligence Agency figures. Israel began to produce chemical warheads in 1967 and gradually built up its arsenal, producing between two and three warheads each year until it amassed 80 warheads in 2004. The report did not say why Israel had ceased production, although it noted that the Jewish state is estimated to have produced enough fissile material for 115 to 190 warheads.

Israel's nuclear program has long been shrouded in secrecy, with the country maintaining a policy of ambiguity while refusing to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Previous estimates have put the number of warheads in Israel's possession at up to 400. According to foreign reports, Israel's military has the capacity to deliver a nuclear payload via a variety of methods, including ballistic missiles, aircraft, and submarine-launched cruise missiles.

The 80-warhead figure — fewer than once thought, and lower than the nuclear arsenal of countries that are officially in possession of atomic weapons — was cited in June in a [2013 yearbook](#) put out by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a leading think tank on global security issues.

Of those warheads, 50 are for medium-range ballistic missiles and 30 are for

bombs carried by aircraft, the report said. In addition, "Israel may also have produced non-strategic nuclear weapons, including artillery shells and atomic demolition munitions," [the Guardian reported](#).

In 1986, based on information supplied by ex-Dimona nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, later convicted of treason, the Sunday Times of London estimated that Israel had produced more than 100 nuclear warheads.

According to the new report, despite conducting several tests North Korea has yet to develop a serviceable atomic warhead. The report put the number of nuclear warheads in the hands of world powers, in descending order, at 4,650 possessed by the US, 4,480 by Russia, 300 by France, 250 by China, 225 by the UK, 120 by Pakistan, 110 by India, and 80 by Israel.

The total number of serviceable atomic warheads in the world is 10,215, the report said, down from as high as 64,449 at the height of the Cold War in 1986.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-has-80-nuclear-warheads-report-says/>

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## **Cameron: I wanted to act in Syria because of the lessons of the Holocaust. Those who opposed action, after seeing 'those children gassed to death by Assad,' will feel 'shame' in the future, says British PM**

**By [Miriam Shaviv](#) September 17, 2013, 10:48 am**

LONDON — British Prime Minister David Cameron, who two weeks ago lost a vote in Parliament calling for military intervention in Syria, said he had wanted to act because of the lessons of the Holocaust.

"The horror of the Holocaust is unique but the lessons we learn from it are absolutely applicable right across our society at home and abroad. In particular, the lesson of not standing by," he told 500 guests at an appeal dinner marking the 25th anniversary of the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) Monday night.

He suggested that those who opposed taking action will feel "shame" in the future.

"It's an extraordinary human emotion but somehow when genocide is taking place, the shame of not acting sometimes doesn't quite register

properly until afterwards," he said. "When we look back at Srebrenica or Rwanda, we wonder now why we didn't do more at the time. When something truly terrible happens, it's almost as if we put up a defense mechanism and try and rationalize why we are powerless to act. The same could so easily be said of Syria."

Describing his horror as he watched the videos of "those children being gassed to death by President Assad's regime" while on holiday this summer, Cameron seemed to contrast his reaction with that of Jewish Opposition leader Ed Miliband, who led the vote against military action. He asked: "What was my instinct? It wasn't to say, what's the best way politically to secure... advantage. It was to say, what is the best way for my country to stand up.

Because Britain is not the sort of country that wants to stand by."

Although his plans for military intervention were blocked, he felt taking a stand had been worthwhile.

"Let us not pretend that Syria would now be promising to give up its chemical weapons if the world had just stood by and said nothing"

"Let us not pretend that Syria would now be promising to give up its chemical weapons if the world had just stood by and said nothing."

Before his address, Cameron met with four Holocaust survivors and during the course of the evening he announced several initiatives to strengthen Holocaust education and commemoration in the UK, including a personal pledge to "do my part" by visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau during 2014.

The government will give an additional £300,000 (\$477,000) to an HET program that sends two students from every high school in the UK to the Nazi camp each year, bringing its total investment to £1.85 million. Over the past 14 years, over 21,000 students and teachers have participated in the Lessons from Auschwitz project.

Cameron also announced the establishment of a multi-faith, cross-party national commission to investigate whether Britain should have a "permanent and fitting" Holocaust memorial, and will personally chair its first meeting later this year.

"At a time when anti-Semitism is returning in some parts of mainland Europe, it is more important than ever

that – as a whole country – we do everything possible to make sure that the memory of the Holocaust is preserved from generation to generation," he said.

He strongly attacked Holocaust denial and "those who try to draw completely inappropriate parallels with other political causes." On the domestic front, he said he would fight "pure discrimination" because that is where the Holocaust began.

"That means banning preachers of hate from coming to our country, it means proscribing organizations that incite terrorism, it means stopping extremist groups from getting an audience on our university campuses," he said. "It means universities themselves ensuring

a clear line between free speech which we all support and which is a fundamental right, and intimidation, which is fundamentally wrong. And it means a bit less of the hands-off tolerance that makes us too cautious, or frankly even fearful as a society, to stand up to those who hold unacceptable views or pursue unacceptable practices."

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/holocaust-informs-camerons-desire-to-act-in-syria/>

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**"A silo cannot perform as a fumigation chamber unless it is gas-tight and has been tested as such."**

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## Fumigating with Phosphine, other fumigants and controlled atmospheres

Fumigating with phosphine,  
other fumigants and controlled atmospheres

DO IT RIGHT — DO IT ONCE  
A Grains Industry Guide



This booklet explains how using phosphine incorrectly contributes to resistance problems and clarifies how to use it most effectively to achieve reliable results. (Updated August 2012)

**Author:** Chris Warrick, Kondinin Group

**Editor:** Catriona Nicholls, Kondinin Group

**Order number:** GRDC579

**Organisation:** GRDC Stored Grain Project

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- See more at: <http://www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-Booklet-Fumigating-with-phosphine#sthash.1GjiMYte.dpuf>



# GRAIN FUMIGATION ALERT

■ In the lead-up to the next winter season harvest, concern is building among grain storage specialists about confusion among growers over what defines a sealable silo for fumigation.

Grain storage specialist Peter Botta says some growers, and also some silo manufacturers, have been running into storage quality issues because silos purported to be sealable are still not gas-tight.

"If you intend to fumigate then the silo must be gas-tight, and that means a silo conforming to the Australian Standard (AS2628) for gas-tight sealable silos," he says.

"A silo cannot perform as a fumigation chamber unless it is gas-tight, and has been tested and passed as such."

With the increasing importance of on-farm storage for many growers, Mr Botta says that understanding and applying silo standards has become crucial. Fumigation is based on a carefully calculated science.

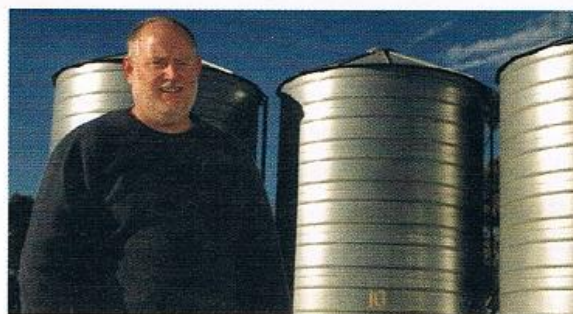
"Without a gas-tight silo there is not a high enough concentration of gas held in the silo for long enough to fumigate pests effectively. And this means killing all eggs, larvae, pupae and adults," Mr Botta says.

"Fumigants are quickly lost if the silo is not gas-tight, and because of the duration factor, the issue is not resolved by simply increasing the dosage. At best, adult insects may be killed, but the pupae or eggs will most likely survive. These will develop into adults, quickly reinfesting the grain."

He says that when buying a silo with fumigation in mind, the first step is to ensure the silo has the AS2628 accreditation.

In addition to fumigation, he also points out that a gas-tight storage system allows grain to be securely stored for long periods without any quality issues, but the fumigation option is there if needed. Because of the importance of this issue and the high cost of a silo failing, Mr Botta urges growers to still pressure test a new silo even when it has the AS2628 accreditation.

Complying with the new standard for gas-tight sealed silos involves conducting a five-



Peter Botta: Gas-tight means just that.

minute half-life pressure test, ensuring the oil levels in the pressure relief valve take at least five minutes to fall from 25 to 12.5 millimetres.

He points out that the AS2628 standard, and pressure testing, also must be applied to silos that are retro-sealed for fumigation.

"Many growers are sealing existing silos to improve their grain insect management, with the intended purpose to fumigate the grain if and when insects are detected. If growers are considering this option, then ensuring the silo meets the Australian Standard is essential to be confident the investment pays off." ■

## GRDC Research Code PAD00001

**More information:** Peter Botta (southern region), 0417 501 890; Phil Burrill (northern region), 0427 696 500; Ben White (western region), 0407 941 923

The GRDC Grain Storage Extension Project has several fact sheets outlining the selection and management of sealed gas-tight silos and fumigant application.

A fact sheet on [Pressure Testing Sealable Silos](#) is available at: [www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-PressureTestingSilos](http://www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-PressureTestingSilos)

A fact sheet on [Grain Fumigation](#) is available at: [www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-GrainFumigation](http://www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-GrainFumigation)

The [Fumigating with Phosphine, Other Fumigants and Controlled Atmospheres](#) booklet is available at: [www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-Booklet-Fumigating-with-phosphine](http://www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-Booklet-Fumigating-with-phosphine)

See Ground Cover Direct on page 40

<http://www.grdc.com.au/GRDCBookletFumigatingwithphosphine#sthash.1GjiMYte.dpuf>



## New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies

The Representative Organisation of NSW Jewry  
ABN 82 990 574 147

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19 APR 2013

LAW & JUSTICE

18 April 2013

**The Director  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000.**

HAND DELIVERY

Dear Sir/Madam

### **SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF NSW STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE - INQUIRY INTO RACIAL VILIFICATION LAW IN NSW**

We refer to the appearance of the Board's Past Presidents, Peter Wertheim AM and David Knoll AM, and our CEO, Vic Alhadeff, before the Inquiry on 8 April 2013.

Please find attached Answers to Questions on Notice.

We also attach 10 copies each of the Australian Antisemitism Report for 2011 and the Australian Antisemitism Report for 2012, published by the Executive Council for Australian Jewry.

Yours sincerely,

Yair Miller  
President

Constituents: Access Ezer • Association of Jewish Engineers • AUJS - Australasian Union of Jewish Students • Australasian Jewish Medical Federation (NSW) • Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Descendants • Australian Friends of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem • Australian Friends of Tel Aviv University (NSW) • Australian Jewish Genealogical Society Inc. • Australian Jewish Historical Society • BJE - NSW Board of Jewish Education • B'nai B'rith Council of NSW • Bondi Mizrahi Synagogue • Central Coast Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation Inc. • (The) Central Synagogue • Child Survivors of the Holocaust Group (Sydney) • Coogee Synagogue • Cremorne & District Hebrew Congregation • Fern Jewish Association • Emanuel School • Emanuel Synagogue • Friends of Bar Ilan University • Friends of Magen David Adom Inc Australia (NSW Division) • Great Synagogue Jewish Arts & Culture Council • Jewish Centre on Ageing (COA) • Jewish Folk Centre Inc • JewishCare • Joint Committee of Jewish Higher Education • Kehillat Masada Synagogue • Messer Torah College & Synagogue • Maccabi NSW • Mandelbaum House • Maroubra Synagogue • Masada College • Moriah College • Mount Sinai College • NAJEX - NSW Association of Jewish Ex Servicemen & Women • National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NSW) • Newcastle Hebrew Congregation • Newtown Synagogue • North Shore Synagogue • North Shore Temple Emanuel • NSW Association of Sephardim • NSW Board of Progressive Jewish Education • NSW Jewish War Memorial Community Centre • NSW Society of Jewish Jurists & Lawyers Inc • Parramatta District Synagogue • Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home • South Head & District Synagogue • Southern Highlands Jewish Community Group • Southern Sydney Synagogue • Strathfield & District Hebrew Congregation • Sydney Jewish Museum • Technion Society of Australia (NSW) • The Jewish House • The Shalom Institute • WIZO NSW • Wolper Jewish Hospital • Womanpower • Zahal Disabled Veterans Organisation • Zionist Council of NSW

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE:**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF NSW STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE - INQUIRY INTO RACIAL VILIFICATION LAW IN NSW**

The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present on Monday and presents the following answers to the questions on notice.

#### **Should NSW adopt a civil penalty regime for racial vilification law?**

The NSW Jewish community is open to including, in addition to a workable criminal law, a civil penalty regime as a reform to the current vilification law.

However, it must be understood that the Police and Director of Public Prosecutions would not have a role to play in seeking a civil penalty. The relevant applicants are likely to be individual victims of serious vilification, or the Ant-Discrimination Board of NSW which, even without this additional responsibility, is under-resourced.

The application presumably would be made to the new NCAT.

Assuming, as suggested by the Honourable David Shoebridge MLC, that an effective contempt regime is introduced to the law governing the NCAT, the likely steps involved would be as follows<sup>1</sup>:

1. Complaint is brought by an individual victim of serious vilification to the Anti-Discrimination Board.
2. The individual or the Board commences proceedings for a civil penalty before the NCAT.
3. The NCAT conducts a hearing.
4. A civil penalty, together with a cease and desist order, may be determined by the NCAT, if the application is successful.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that steps 5 to 7 reflect what in fact occurred in the long-running litigation under Part IIA of the *Racial Discrimination Act* (Cth) brought by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry against Dr Fredrick Toben: *Jones v Toben* (includes explanatory memorandum) [2002] FCA 1150 (17 September 2002); *Jones v Toben* (Corrigendum dated 20 April 2009) [2009] FCA 354 (16 April 2009); and *Jones v Toben* (No 2) [2009] FCA 477 (13 May 2009)

5. If the Order is ignored, contempt proceedings may be commenced against the non-compliant defendant.
6. Contempt orders may be made following a further hearing.
7. If the contempt is not "*purged*" (that is by compliance with the original orders to pay a penalty and to cease and desist), then another hearing is required in a prosecution for contempt, leading possibly to a jail sentence.

Whilst a 3-tiered approach (civil prohibitions, civil penalties and criminal proscription) to serious racial vilification would be a welcome improvement to the existing legislation, in our view the civil penalties tier would not provide an optimal legislative answer to the type of fact situation in which it would apply. In our view it is not appropriate to deal with the "racial abuse on the bus" type of scenario by way of civil penalties only, rather than criminal sanctions, because in this sort of scenario:

- A. The victim(s) deserve the protection of the State and should not be left only with the option of bringing and prosecuting a complaint relying on their own resources or those of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, which has no experience in prosecution work.
- B. It is very unlikely that individuals, particularly victims of racial vilification, would be able to fund the legal process involved. Nor should they have to.
- C. The prosecution of behaviour which disturbs the peace and undermines social cohesion is the responsibility of the State. Further, the Anti-Discrimination Board would require additional resources to be able to undertake civil prosecutions. The resources required would not be significantly different than for a criminal prosecution.
- D. The clear message from the State must be that this sort of abuse is considered to be criminal conduct and not merely a civil wrong and, as such, has no place in our community.
- E. Civil penalties usually only involve the payment of money and, in this type of case, a cease-and-desist order, but the payment of money is not the appropriate method for correcting serious racial vilification.

### **Should an effects test be included?**

At page 11 of the submission by Professors Rice and Rees, a possible prohibition is presented as follows:

*The prohibition be against an act engaged in on the basis of race, that is intended, or is reasonably likely, to cause a person to have a reasonable fear in the circumstances for their own safety or security of property, or for the safety or security of property of their family or associates.*



It is difficult to see how such a provision would not already be covered by existing Crimes Act provisions in which the element "on the basis of race" does not have to be proved.<sup>2</sup>

Secondly, under that proposal, intent would not have to be proved if the fear was reasonably likely to be a result of the conduct. We do not advocate the introduction of a criminal law that does not include any element of *mens rea*.

Moreover, if an effects test – the "reasonably likely to" approach – is adopted, exceptions to liability will also have to be legislated, as Professors Rice and Rees correctly indicate at page 12 of their submission. The availability of such exceptions as defences would open the door to the very problem about which the Honourable David Shoebridge MLC expressed concern, namely that it would make it possible for defendants to put themselves forward in court "as martyrs to some horrible racist cause", claiming falsely that they have been victimised.

The approach we have recommended minimises this possibility. If racial vilification is treated as a crime requiring proof of intention or recklessness, there would no provision for the kinds of exceptions that would need to be available if racial vilification is treated as a civil wrong in which intention or recklessness need not be proved. Such exceptions are wholly inapplicable where intention or recklessness is required to be proved to the criminal standard.

Thirdly, requiring that the fear relate to a person's own safety or that of their family or associates would replace the present "means" element with a differently drafted "means" element. It would replace one barrier to proving intentional incitement of racial hatred that has, as a matter of practice, proven to be insurmountable, with another which we consider would be no less difficult to surmount.

Finally, and quite fundamentally, the proposed provision would wrongly preserve the focus on acts against a particular person or group of persons and their property, rather than focusing the crime upon the impact on a racial group in society and society as a whole. In our view, the crime of serious racial vilification should proscribe acts which damage the fabric of racial harmony which generally prevails in Australian society, and normal civic relations, by vilifying on the basis of race, and doing so intentionally or recklessly. Where any person is intimidated or harassed, or where there is incitement to racial hatred, there ought to be no need to prove any link at all to a threat of physical harm. Inciting people publicly to hate others because of their race, and doing so intentionally or with a conscious disregard for what the consequences might be (i.e., recklessly), is sufficient in our view to warrant the imposition of criminal sanctions. We also believe that there is strong and demonstrable public support for that view. We refer you in particular to the case of *DPP v Brendan Lee O'Connell*, which was tried before a 12-person jury in the Perth District Court in

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<sup>2</sup> For example: It can be an assault where A puts B in fear of C: *Macpherson v Beath* (1975) 12 SASR 174; An assault can be committed recklessly where the accused foresees the likelihood of inflicting injury or fear, and ignores the risk: *Vallance v R* (1961) 108 CLR 56; The threat must be immediate (*R v Knight* (1988) 35 A Crim R 314), an element that ought not be included in defining the crime of serious vilification.

2010. On 31 January 2011, the jury convicted the Defendant on 6 counts under sections 77 and 79 of the Western Australia *Criminal Code*. These sections do not require a prosecutor to prove a link to a threat of physical harm, or an incitement of others to threaten physical harm, or even "a reasonable fear in the circumstances [by victims] for their own safety or security of property, or for the safety or security of property of their family or associates," as advocated by Professors Rice and Rees.

It should be noted that O'Connell was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment. His appeal was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Western Australia on 4 May 2012.

**Clearly, both the Western Australian legislature and the jury in the *O'Connell* case considered the intentional incitement of racial hatred in public to be sufficient to warrant the imposition of criminal sanctions (and not merely civil penalties), even in the absence of any element of violence or fear of violence. This is the standard which should also apply in New South Wales. There is no good reason for NSW to adopt a lower standard to protect its harmonious, multicultural society than the standard adopted in Western Australia.**

Adopting our recommendations would include the following safeguards to ensure that criminal sanctions could not be imposed lightly:

- (1) The need to prove, to the criminal standard, incitement to hatred on the basis of race, or alternatively harassment on the basis of race, and in either case with intent or recklessness;
- (2) A jury would decide whether these elements have been proved to the criminal standard.

**What is your view on the potential option for amendment to s20D outlined below:**

#### 20D Serious Racial Vilification

*A person must not by a public act, promote or express hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of a person or group of persons on the ground of the race of the person or members of the group that is intended, or reasonably likely in the circumstance of the case to:*

- a. *Threaten physical harm towards, or towards any property of, the person or group of persons, or*
- b. *Incite others to threaten harm towards, or towards any property of, the person or group of persons, or*
- c. *Cause a person to have a reasonable fear for their own safety or security of property or for the safety or security of property of their family.*

The definition of race would be expanded in s4(1) to include presumed race.

We first track this proposal against the current legislation to show the drafting differences:

**20D Offence of ~~S~~erious racial vilification**

~~(1) A person shall not, by a public act, promote or express incite-hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of, a person or group of persons on the ground of the race of the person or members of the group that is intended, or reasonably likely in the circumstance of the case to by means which include:~~

~~(a) threatening physical harm towards, or towards any property of, the person or group of persons, or~~

~~(b) inciting others to threaten physical harm towards, or towards any property of, the person or group of persons, or~~

~~(c) cause a person to have a reasonable fear for their own safety or security of property or for the safety or security of property of their family.~~

~~Maximum penalty:~~

~~In the case of an individual 50 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.~~

~~In the case of a corporation 100 penalty units.~~

~~(2) A person shall not be prosecuted for an offence under this section unless the Attorney General has consented to the prosecution.~~

The proposal attempts to remove the means element that is one of the principal problems with the present version of section 20D, and replace it with two alternative elements. The first element is intention but there is no provision for the traditional alternative of recklessness (a matter which can be quite simply addressed). The second alternative provides an effects test.

We set out below our quite substantial concerns with this proposal.

As to intention, the proposal would barely constitute an alternative to the current unworkable section. It is very difficult to prove beyond reasonable doubt intention to cause a particular harm. As a practical matter, it may be no less difficult an obstacle to surmount for a prosecutor than under the current section 20D.

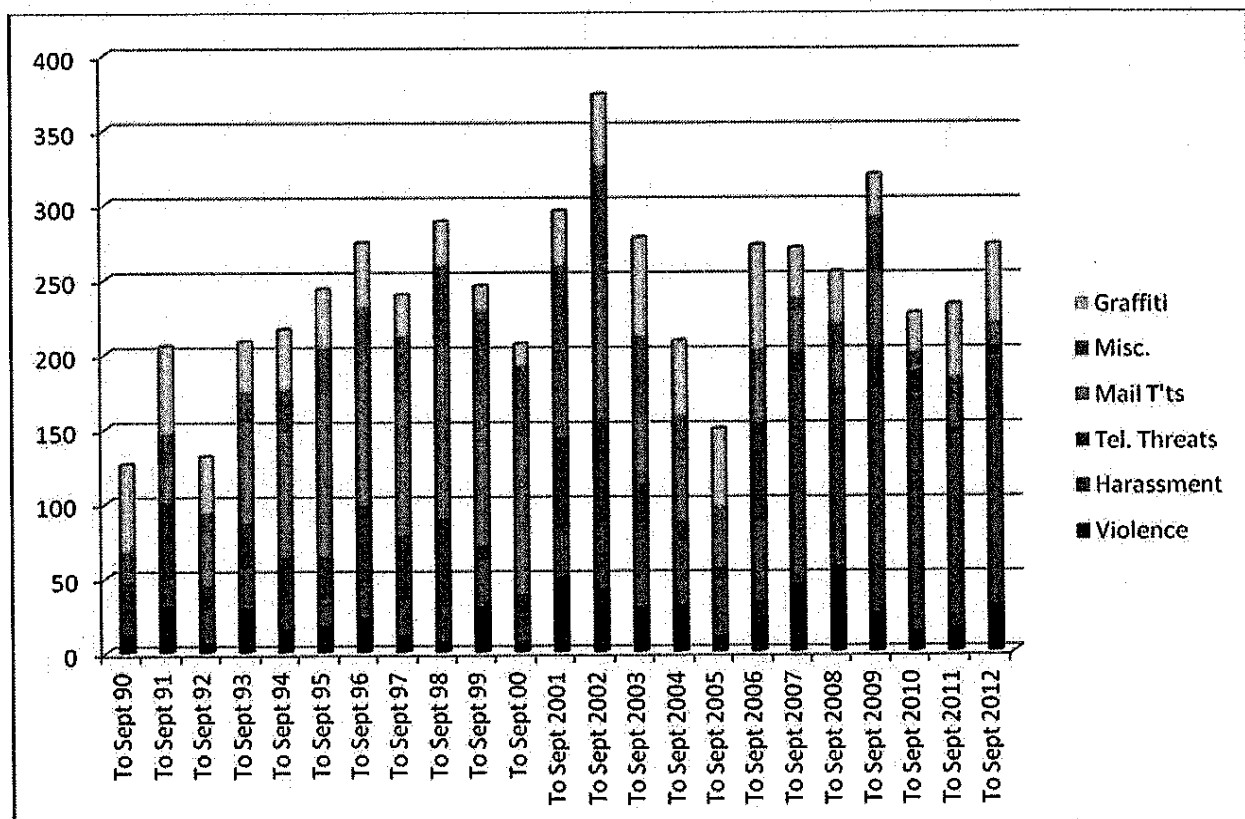
As to the effects-based alternative, further to our concerns expressed above:

- the proposal removes the requirement of proving intent (or recklessness) altogether. A criminal act would occur if one of the three identified effects was 'reasonably likely in the circumstances' to follow from the public act;
- instead of an actual connection from the public act to any harm, the new test would require a likely connection of harm. The difference is not great. It contemplates a very modest reduction in the level of difficulty facing a prosecutor in deciding whether or not to prosecute serious racial vilification. It is our submission that such a modest change would do very little to improve the law, and would not meet the community's reasonable expectations of a workable criminal law;
- removing the requirement of physical harm in the context of incitement (paragraph (1)(b)) similarly is only a modest change, and given the retention of the requirement of "physical" harm in subparagraph (1)(a), we consider that the courts are likely to interpret the two subparagraphs in the same way despite the different language in each of them; and

- the insertion of the new subparagraph (1)(c) introduces a new alternative causation test, which is the means element by another route. Further, as indicated above, it overlaps with existing criminal law sanctions which are easier to prove.

### What level of anti-Jewish vilification is being experienced?

We extract below a graph from the most recent annual Antisemitism Report produced by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, and enclose a copy of the full report. The report describes in detail the impact of vilification on the Australian Jewish community over the last year. It is our experience that when threats are allowed to build up, more serious anti-Jewish activity suffers an increase. The increases are not always in proportion but do appear to have persisted.



NSW Jewish Board of Deputies  
Wednesday 17 April 2013

...look who is complaining about one-sided discussions...

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### AIJAC objects to conference

September 13, 2013 by J-Wire Staff

The Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) have written to the Vice-Chancellor and President of the Australian National University Professor Ian Young AO, to raise concerns regarding the one-sided nature of the "Human Rights in Palestine Conference" that ran in Canberra this week.

Read on: <http://www.iwire.com.au/news/aijac-objects-to-conference/37226#more-37226>